

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 06388 061205Z

64

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W

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R 061144Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8249

S E C R E T BEIRUT 6388

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, LE, US

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT FRANGIE

REF: BEIRUT 6245

1. BEIRUT PRESS THIS MORNING HEADLINES "NIXON INVITES FRANGIE TO VISIT UNITED STATES -- STATES LACK OF TIME BARS LEBANON VISIT" (DAILY STAR) L'ORIENT LE JOUR CARRIES "NIXON TO FRANGIE: REGRETS THE MISSED VISIT AND ASSURANCES FOR THE SECURITY OF LEBANON". ARABIC LANGUAGE PRESS ALSO FRONT-PAGES STORY. ARTICLES DO NOT CARRY FULL TEXT LETTER, BUT CONTAIN QUOTES FROM SECOND PARAGRAPH.

2. UPON SEEING FOREGOING I TELEPHONED PRESIDENTIAL ADVISER BOUTROS DIB AND EXPRESSED MY SURPRISE THAT PRESIDENT HAD OBVIOUSLY RELEASED PORTIONS OF PRESIDENT NIXON'S MESSAGE. TOLD HIM THIS WAS MOST EMBARRASSING AND INQUIRED WHAT HAD HAPPENED. DIB SAID THAT AT CABINET MEETING YESTERDAY PRESIDED OVER BY FRANGIE LATTER HAD DIRECTED HIM TO READ FRENCH TEXT OF PRESIDENT'S LETTER. DIB DID SO AND AT REQUEST OF MINISTERS PRESENT READ IT A SECOND TIME. DIB SAID THAT SUBSEQUENTLY MINISTER OF INFORMATION REQUESTED PRESIDENT'S PERMISSION TO PUBLISH TEXT OF LETTER. PRESIDENT REFUSED AND WHEN MINISTER CAME BACK THE SECOND TIME HE AGAIN TURNED HIM DOWN. NOTWITH-

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STANDING FOREGOING DURING THE COURSE LATE AFTERNOON

"SEVERAL" MINISTERS CALLED PRESIDENT, RECOMMENDING
RELEASE OF LETTER FOR BEIRUT RUMOR MILL WAS AGOG RE REAL
REASON FOR MY VISIT TO PRESIDENT ON JUNE 4. DIB DOES
NOT KNOW PRECISELY WHAT TRANSPIRED LAST EVENING BUT
BELIEVES PRESIDENT MAY HAVE AUTHORIZED RELEASE OF THE
GIST OF THE MESSAGE. I TOLD DIB THAT I CONSIDERED
THIS TO BE MOST UNFORTUNATE FOR IT CONSTITUTED A
VIOLATION OF COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN CHIEFS OF
STATE. DIB APOLOGIZED PROFUSELY, STATING HE WOULD
BRING MY VIEWS TO THE ATTENTION OF FRANGIE.

3. ALTHOUGH AS REPORTED REFTTEL I EMPHASIZED TO
PRESIDENT THAT HE COULD NOT PUBLISH THE LETTER
I DID NOT REPEAT NOT STAMP IT SECRET.

4. DIB ADDED THAT CABINET REACTION TO PRESIDENT'S
MESSAGE WAS MOST POSITIVE. ALL MINISTERS EXPRESSED
APPRECIATION AND RESPECT FOR WHAT OUR PRESIDENT HAD
DONE AND WERE OBVIOUSLY EXTREMELY RELIEVED AND
GRATEFUL OVER OUR PRESIDENT'S ACTIONS.

5. SINCE DICTATING FOREGOING, JUST RECEIVED DEPTTEL
117865, CONTENTS OF WHICH I PASSED TO DIB.
I AM NEVERTHELESS SUBMITTING FOREGOING FOR THE RECORD.
GODLEY

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CHIEF OF STATE VISITS, NEWS LEAKS, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS
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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 JUN 1974
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Disposition Authority: smithrj
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